THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government do not maintain such information.

(c) and (d) A proposal to establish Distance Education Council through an Act of Parliament is under consideration.

UGC grants to Andhra Pradesh

3554. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of U.G.C. grants released to Andhra Pradesh during 2006-07 and 2007-08.

(b) whether such release is in proportion to that of the universities in the other States; and

(c) if not, what are the guidelines for release of such grants to universities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) According to the University Grants Commission (UGC), it has released Rs. 70.98 crore in 2006-07 and Rs. 23.82 crore in 2007-08 to universities including institutions 'deemed-to-be-universities' in Andhra Pradesh. The UGC provides financial assistance to eligible universities/colleges which are included under Section 2(f) and declared fit to receive central assistance under Section 12 B of the UGC Act, 1956 as per approved pattern of assistance under various schemes. Allocation of the grants under a Five year Plan by the Commission is not made State-wise, but to various universities/ colleges on the recommendations of the duly constituted expert committees and the availability of overall fund with the UGC. No inter-State comparison can be made because the quantum of grants would depend on the number of State Universities (for which only development grants are given), Central Universities (for which both development and maintenance grants are given) as well as institutions 'deemed-to-be-universities' which are eligible for financial assistance from the UGC. The pattern of assistance is uniform and based on parameters laid down by the Commission from time to time. Universities/Colleges located in educationally backward areas and young universities are given special development grants by the Commission.

Non-provision of free education to SCs and STs

t 3555. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that poor SC/ST students are not being provided free education in the schools/colleges inspite of the fact that they got land on concessional rates;

(b) the details of the schools/colleges where poor SC/ST students have been provided educational on concessional rates during the last three years; and

(c) the details of action taken by Government against the schools/colleges, in case they are violating the rules?

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.